

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, April 23, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell Cambridge,  
Sunday, April 23rd. 1877 (?) My dear Mrs. Bell:

I am very sorry that I have b n ot thanked you before for the kind letter and beautiful book of sketches you sent me. I think it is but fair Alec should bear part of the blame, his shoulders are broad enough and he keeps me very busy with his visits and copying.

How delightful it must be to be able to sk t e tch from nature and bring back with you such pleasant mementoes of pleasant hours of travel. I have always wished I could sketch, and last summer took three or four lessons, but hardly enough to teach me how or what to draw. Someday I hope I may be able to sketch with you. I should enjoy much having your help and advice. Many of your drawings are of Scotland. I did not go there when abroad, though I wanted to very much. Its history always fascinated me from a mere child, and its great men were some of my especial heroes. Don ' t you think I did well then, to take a Scotchman for my own particular hero?

I am glad you were pleased with the picture I sent you. It is not at all a likeness of Berta though she was my model. I did not try for, for one for the scale was so small it would be very difficult.

AlecV Alec's time to crow has not come yet, we too have had the most lovely spring weather. It is much warmer out of doors than in the house. Mayflowers are sold in the street corners, and today the gardner showed us some peas that have just come up. We also have thirty-nine of the loveliest little chickens ever were I wonder if we have the start of you.

## Library of Congress

We have been to Salem at last, Mr. Bell, I mean Alec and I. We left home Thursday and spent a very pleasant evening and noon there. I do not know whether Mr. Bell saw Mrs. Thomas Sanders when he was here. She is very pleasant and I like her extremely. Little George you know but he has grown very much this winter. The children all seemed so fond of Alec, 2 it was very pleasant to see him with them, I was glad to hear that Mr. Bell arrived home safely and after as comfortable a journey as could be expected. You must have been very glad to see him back again, though it was hard for Alec to let him go. I was glad he stayed so long for Alec was very happy, I said that in the days they were together he learned to know him better than he has ever done before. Alec says almost everytime I see him how desolate his rooms seemed without Mr. Bell.

Please give my love to Mr. Bell and the kindest remembrances to the Misses Symonds.

Affectionately Yours Mabel